Retiring Clerks. Mr. Lodge-"I had a suggestion made to me the other day by an officer in one of the departments with a good deal of experience in civil service matters in effect that there should be an arrangement similar to the retirement boards of the navy estab lished during the war, by which means in efficient clerks were dropped out occasionally. The suggestion was made that a re-tiring board in every department could drop out a certain percentage of the least ein cient every year, the places so made to be filled from the efficiency list. That seems to be similar to the idea suggested by you." Mr. Evans—"You have got to do some-thing or there will be a very large civil list of pensioners. If a man upon entering

er at the same time."
Mr. Lodge-"I was told the other day that there was a clerk in the pension office so broken physically and mentally that ne could not find his way to the pension office building, but had to be brought there and could do no work. Do you know of any

Mr. Evans-"There is one clerk in about

Mr. Lodge-"In cases like that the civi service commission could not interfere if the clerk were removed, could they?" Mr. Evans replied that they could not, and said that such people were kept in through the influence of sympathetic

### Like a Lottery Prize.

Speaking of the general scope of the civil service law, Mr. Evans said he would just as lief run a chance of drawing a prize in the Louisiana lottery as to get efficiency through the civil service.

"I like to look a man in the face," said Mr. Evans, "before I employ him. And you do, too. A man may pass a splendid civil service examination, but when you put him down to a desk he may be impracticable and inefficient."

Mr. Lodge wanted to know whether there was any difficulty in removing this class of clerks after they had served their probationary period, which was supposed to show just such conditions, and the commissioner answered there was not.

Mr. Evans continued to say that he had not drawn more than two men from the civil service eligible list since he had been in office. He said that the best clerks he had in his office had never passed a civil service examination. Since he took charge of the pension office he had reinstated one hundred and five old soldiers, who were dismissed during the last administration. and in doing so he had always considered their ability to do the work as a basis for reinstatement.

Mr. Evans—"Every person seems to think he is the best clerk in the bureau. The result is everybody wants promotion and they get their senators and representatives and use various methods of influence to and use various methods of influence to secure these promotions. There are other men who hold their positions just as men hold positions in business life, and that is because they are useful. I found the same condition in the Post Office Department when I was there."

### Inefficient Clerks.

Mr. Lodge-"The clerks who are unable to perform their duties, I presume, are mostly old men?"

Mr. Evans-"Mostly old men and ladies who have been there a good while. But there are a good many others who are nuisances in the office because they are quarrelsome and continually stirring up strife and trouble. In removing a clerk you do not like to charge incompatibility of temper against them. But such is the fact. They are everlastingly stirring up trouble among their neighbors." Mr. Lodge-"There is very little pressure, I presume, to get people selected from the eligible list for appointment?"

Mr. Evans—"The fact is the impression is quite general that if a man can pass the examination of the civil service commission he will get an appointment. For this reason I have a great many casels

this reason I have a great many people coming to me to get appointments after they have passed the examination."

## Favors Exemption.

Mr. Pritchard asked Mr. Evans if he thought special examiners in his office should be classified.

Mr. Evans replied that they should not be, in his judgment. Sometimes, he said, it is not desirable that it should be known what men are special examiners. This is the case, especially, where criminal matters are to be worked up. Mr. Pritchard wanted to know if Mr.

Evans thought examining medical boards should be appointed through the commis Mr. Evans replied that they should not.

e said that a man might be efficient as an aminer but might be personally obnoxexaminer but might be personally obnoxious to the soldiers and for that reason would not be efficient. Mr. Pritchard: "How should the chiefs of divisions be treated in the pension office. Should they be classified?"

Mr. Evans: "I think not. Men occupying such positions should be in the special confidence of the head of the bureau. I never heard of Gen. Grant choosing his advisers from among the enemy. So far as politics among clerks are concerned, there is ing in that. They can change quicker than an administration. I would protect by the civil service law the charwomen and la-berers in the departments, and I would protect all clerks up to \$1,400 per annum, but above that I would let them take their

Mr. Lodge: "I understand you would not

limit its scope?"

Mr. Evans: "I would not abolish it, but I would limit it and reorganize it. I would protect these poor charwomen and the laberers, but I would not have it cover the higher positions." Civil Service Commissioner Procter asked

Mr. Evans a number of questions. Mr. Fritchard asked Mr. Evans whether, when he went into the pension office, he had not found a book or memoranda containing the names of employes in that bureau, and in-dicating the politics of each. -"I found such a book; inher-

ited it, in fact Mr. Proctor asked the witness if it would not be better to have all the chiefs visions in the pension office of varied poli-

tics instead of the same party. Mr. Evans said he did not think so. When the people elected a certain party to power he thought they intended that that party should operate the government through their own party friends. Mr. Pritchard asked the commissioner

what limit of service he would place upon clerks entering the service of the govern-

### Eight Years' Tenure.

Mr. Evans said he thought eight years' service would be enough, and that the time should not exceed ten years. He thought that the present system of life tenure tended to divorce the government from the people, and that the rising generation feit that they had no interest in this government. He said that when a man gets into a public office now it is harder to get him out of the an it is to get an officer out of the army. Then, too, only the officers in the army have a life tenure of office, while in the civil service the privates are put in for Some of them, he said, almost defy any one to get them out.

Mr. Prector wanted to know if young men, as a rule, did not make better clerks than old men.

Mr. Evans replied that they did.

Procter then retorted that since the civil service was organized the aver age age of men who passed the examina-tions was twenty-seven years, so that the oldest clerks coming into the service through that means could not be over forty-one years of age on an average. Ex-Representative Baker of New Hamp shire was present representing the Anti-Civil Service League and desired to ask

Mr. Evans certains questions, which he did in a limited way. His right to ask of witnesses will be considered by the full committee at its next meeting, and the decision on that point arrived at. The investigation was then discontinued until Thursday, the 6th of January,

person who can fill your need.

# LATE NEWS BY WIRE

American Cotton Growers' Protective Association in Session.

LOW PRICES CONFRONT PLANTERS

Prest. Lane Says 5 Cents is Below Cost of Production,

DECREASED ACREAGE URGED

MEMPHIS, Tenn., December 20.-The American Cotton Growers' Protective Association was called to order at 10 c'clock this morning by President Hector D. Lane of Athens, Ala. Many delegates were presthe service knew that his tenure of office was limited, he would probably save some of his earnings, while he would work bet-Louisiana, Georgia and Mississippi. Immediately after the delegates were called to order President Lane delivered an address in which he explained why the convention

had been called. "Cotton today is selling at less than 5 cents," he said, "and this means the insignificant sum of 10 cents a day for labor of the man who is distinctively the cotton grower. I make this statement deliberate-

ly and defy a successful contradiction.' Below Cost of Production. Continuing, Mr. Lane said: "Under pre

vailing conditions, the product of our toil is no longer adequate to our subsistence. Prevailing prices are below the cost of production. With a surplus of several millions annually, which is an able coadjutor of the cotton "bear," the law of supply and demand has been displaced and in its stead interposed the result attained by this commercial fakir and flim-flam artist.
"Statistics show that there has been great falling off in speculative gambling in cotton futures in the last several years, consequent upon the small crops, for as the

### visible supply diminished the power of minipulation weakened." Plea to Reduce Acreage.

President Lane made a strong plea for reduction of the cotton acreage, saying that overproduction fosters manipulation.

By destroying the annual surplus the law of supply and demand will prevail; competition will intervene, and the cost of the production of this commodity, which is a fair standard of its value, will be the basis of its market price. After the president had delivered his address the usual committees were appointed, and the morning session was devoted to the reception of delegates and to organiza

Among the prominent delegates present Among the prominent delegates present were G.v. Eagle of Arkansas, J. W. Pratt of Huntsville, Ala.; Capt. L. W. Levesque, Arkansas; Capt. Jerome Hill, St. Louis; Col. W. W. Stone, ex-auditor of Mississip-pi; Col. Charles Scott, Mississippi, and Mc-Neil Bond, Tennessee.

## EMPLOYMENT FOR THOUSANDS.

Window Glass Factories Will Start Up in January.

BRIDGETON, N. J., December 20.-Fire vere put under the furnaces today in the Cohansey, Cumberland, Moore-Jones window glass factories near here, and it is expected that the works will start up in a week or two, probably on January 2. It is expected that 2,000 persons now idle will te given employment.

### DURRAN'T FAMILY IMPOVERISHED. Father of Condemned Man Makes an Appeal for Aid.

SAN FRANCISCO, December 20,-The father of Theodore Durrant, the con-

demned murderer, says: "We have not given up the fight for my son's life. We will try to get a writ of error from the state supreme court to the United States Supreme Court. If this is denied we can go to the latter cour and make application—that is, if we can raise the money—for the expenses of this long litigation has impoverished us."

## MR. WIGHT ENTERTAINS.

Reception Given in Honor of Board of Trade President.

A reception was given Saturday evening by Commissioner John B. Wight at his residence, 1767 Q street northwest, in honor of Mr. Theodore W. Noyes, who was recently elected president of the board of trade. The gathering was a representative one of the citizens of the District, and there were also present members of both houses of Congress who have to do with District affairs. An opportunity was afforded for citizens and members of the local legislature to meet in a social way, and the event proved to be highly enjoy

able. The guests were received by Commis sioner Wight and then presented to Mr. Noyes. During the evening a handsome collation was served. The decorations of the table were appropriate to the Christ mas season, as they consisted of holly and red ribbon. The guests to the reception were invited for 9 o'clock, and earlier in the evening the following were entertained

at dinner: Senator Cockrell, Senator Gallinger, Rep resentative Babcock, Representative Can on, Mr. Beriah Wilkins, Representative S. E. Payne of New York, Col. A. T. Brit-ton, Mr. W. F. Mattingly, Commissioner Black, Mr. S. W. Woodward and Mr.

Theodore W. Noyes. Among those present at the reception were Senator Proctor, Senator Pritchard, Jehn Addison Porter, Justice Bingham, Justice Cole, Justice Hagner, Mr. Crosby S. Noves, Senator Pettigrew, Representative Noyes, Schator Fettigrew, Representative Adolph Meyer of Louisiana, Representative John J. Jenkins of Wisconsin, Mr. H. D. Walbridge, Mr. F. L. Moore, Mr. Archibald Greenlees, Mr. S. H. Kauffmann, Mr. A. A. Birney, Mr. B.H.Warner, Dr. A. P. Fardon, Mr. Geo. Truesdell, Mr. John W. Douglass Mr. C. C. Glover, Mr. Frank B. Noyes, Mr. Joseph Cranford, Mr. Louis P. Shoe naker, William G. Moore, Mr. Sidney T. Thomas, Mr. James L. Pugh, jr., Mr. E. S. Parker, Mr. B. P. Mimmack, Mr. R. H. Gunneil, Mr. Lloyd B. Wight, Rev. Dr. Teu nis S. Hamlin, Mr. A. M. Bliss, Mr. George T. Dunlep, Mr. John Cassels, Mr. Rudolpi Kauffmann, Capt. Edward Burr, Capt. L.
H. Beach, Geo. H. Harries, Dr. E. M. Gallaudet, Mr. A. S. Worthington, Mr. R. Ross
Perry, Mr. Frank Hume, Col. Haskell, Dr.
William Tindall, Mr. W. B. Bryan, Mr.
Watson J. Newton, H. F. Blount, Mr. Geo.
E. Hamilton, Mr. W. S. Thompson, Mr. T. A. Lambert, Mr. John G. Hemphill, Mr. Andrew B. Duvall, Mr. W. H. Rapley, Mr. Charles Moore, Dr. W. C. Woodward, Maj. H. L. Biscoe, Mr. W. J. Beardman, G. W. McLanahan, W. V. Cox and others.

## Fatal Fire at Pamplona, Spain.

PAMPLONA, Spain, December 20 .- Owing to the destruction by fire of an asphalt factory at Bacaioca five persons have been burned to death and thirty-six have been injured. Several persons are still buried in

## Count Esterhazy to Be Tried.

PARIS, December 20.-It is understood that the preliminary inquiry into the charges made against Count Ferdinand Walsin Esterhazy has resulted in his com-

### Cannot Establish the Grades. The Commissioners have informed Mr.

M. F. Talty of 300 M street northeast, that they cannot undertake to establish grades on Michigan avenue, from North Capitol street to Lincoln avenue at this time. The Glenwood Cemetery Company, the Commissioners say, claims to own the portion of Michigan avenue adjoining what were recently cemetery grounds, and has for bidden the District to use the same with Washington; the other officers and members of the three Salvation Army corps, and members of the Auxiliary League and the Mercy League are personally assisting. Major Pebbles, at 928 R street, will acknowledg all contributions. out purchase. In that connection, Mr. whether a situation or a servant—a "want" ad. in The Star will reach the person who can fill your need to some ground for the contention of the

### IN THE SUPREME COURT.

The Kidwell Claim Postponed Until April 11. In the United States Supreme Court today the case of M. F. Morris against the United States was postponed until April 11, 1898, when arguments will be heard. This

is the case, generally known as the Poto mac flats case, or the Kidwell claim. The Supreme Court postponed argument of the Laclede Gas Light Company case until February 21.

The case of the United States against the Joint Traffic Association, involving the applicability of the anti-trust law to the agreement between the great trunk lines between New York and Chicago, was reassigned for argument on February 21. The case was set originally for January 3, and, as it is desired to have a full bench hear the case, a postponement was made to await action by the Senate on Attorney General McKenna's nomination.

The Supreme Court affirmed the decision of the lower court in the case of J. J. Eubanks, a convicted murderer of California, basing its decision on that in the Durran

late issuance of its mandate in the case of Thomas Bram, convicted of murder in Massachusetts, and awarded a new trial. Mandates usually issue only after thirty days, but the court today acted specially in the case on request of the solicitor general, who desired the mandate to go dow! at once, for the reason that several of the crew of the vessel on which the murder was committed are in jail as witnesses whose testimony is wanted at the next

The Supreme Court adjourned for the holiday recess today, to convene again on the 3d of January. Before adjourning, the chief justice announced the reassignment of several cases which had been set for the 3d of January, the more important of which are the following: To the 24th of January. the Illinois tax cases, the Texas anti-trust cases, the Kansas cattle quarantine cases

## INTERNAL REVENUE RECEIPTS.

An Increase for November Over the Same Month in 1896,

The monthly statement of the collections of internal revenue show that for the month of November the receipts amounted to \$13,959,296, an increase as compared with November last year of \$1,257,927. For the last five months, however, there is shown to have been a decrease of \$5,912.

The receipts during November last from the several sources of revenue and the increases or decreases as compared with No vember, 1896, are given as follows: Spirits \$8,671,979, increase, \$814,093; tobacco, \$2,-849,997, increase, \$E8,698; fermented liquors, \$2,249,062, decrease, \$69,691; oleomargarine, \$151,346, increase, \$70,641; filled cheese, \$2,-209, increase, \$1,651; miscellaneous, \$34,700 increase, \$1,963.

Assistant Secretary Howell is confident that the customs receipts this month will exceed those of December a year ago. This, he thinks, will be the beginning of the real work of the Dingley bill. Should the receipts surpass those of a month ago it will be the first month since the Dingley bill went into effect that this has been the case.

The receipts for November last were \$100,000 less than for November a year ago. So far this month the total receipts have been \$7,365,373, against \$6,850,299 for the same period last year. Treasury officials believe that January

### will show a large increase over the same month of a year before. It is expected that there will be heavy importations of sugar in January.

EVERY CHARGE DENIED. F. M. Gideon Before the Senate Pacific Railroads Committee.

The subcommittee of the Senate com mittee on Pacific railroads today heard F M. Gideon, the attorney who was charged by J. K. Reddington Saturday with having manipulated the land office records. Mr Gideon denied every allegation made by Reddington and insisted that there was no possibility of manipulating the records in the manner charged, even if he had so desired.

Alex. Britton testified that the books and papers in the land office had to go through a number of hands and four or five divisions of the land office, making it im possible for any one man to manipulate them in the manner charged by Reddington

## COMMITS SUICIDE.

Police Notified of Death of Thomas Hanton.

Information was received at police head quarters last night that a pensioner named Thomas Hanton, sixty-eight years old, had committed suicide at the Hoffman House, in Lancaster, Pa. Coroner Shank, who notified Major Moore of the affair, asked that the man's family be found. The dead man had been on a protracted spree and ended his life by taking opium pills and inhaling illuminating gas.

When Hanton reached Lancaster more than a week ago he was well supplied with unds, which he spent freely. Saturday night his money gave out, and as he was suffering from an attack of nerv ousness he became despondent and bought the morphine pills. Then he returned to his room and turned on the gas. He retired soon after midnight, and the smel of escaping gas attracted attention to the room. He was unconscious and the author-

where he died last night.

The local police made inquiries concerning the old man, but could find no one who

## MEN MAY INTERVENE

Claims of Belt Railroad Employes Recognized in Court.

Judge Cox today, in Equity Court No. 1 granted permission to Attorney P. J. Ryan, representing the employes of the Belt Railway Company, to intervene on behalf of the employes, in the case involving the

sale of that road. Attorney Ryan intends to file a petition tomorrow asking relief for the employes, setting forth that the money deposited by the conductors with the company to insure the faithful performance of their duties should be regarded in the light of a trust fund and should constitute a prior lien, over other claims, upon the assets of the company; also that the employes hold a prior claim for wages due, by reason of labor performed. The court will be urged as energetically as is possible to recognize the

rights of the employes.

As near as can be estimated by the ductors, \$1,400 have been deposited with the company by them. There is due the con-ductors and drivers as wages, it is esti-mated, \$2,578.40: the stablemen, \$682; the change boys, \$162; the hill boys, \$102; the watchmen, \$31; the blacksmiths, \$155, and the helpers, \$62. This is a total due the men of \$5,172.40 and the sum of \$4,772.40 is

for wages alone.
The decree of the court directing the sale of the road will be signed tomorrow in all probability. A proposed decree drawn up by counsel for the trustee representing the bondholders has been submitted to counse for the railway company, who will examine it today. It is stated that the paper will be ready tomorrow for the signature of the court.

## DINNER FOR A THOUSAND.

Movement by Salvation Army in Behalf of the Poor.

A thousand of the poorest children in Washington will be given a Christmas dinner and entertainment by the Salvation army in the Center Market Hall at 2 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, December 29. If the charitable people of Washington contribute more than is required for a thousand children the army will invite additional guests. if permitted, up to the limit of the hall, which will hold several thousand.

Tickets will be issued by the army, with the co-operation of the Associated Chari-ties, and charitable people. Major Ashley Pebbles, who is now in charge of the South Atlantic division of the Salvation Army, with headquarters at Washington, is direct-ing the undertaking, and has laid his plans in the light of his experience in giving sim-iler donners in other large cities of the Staff Captain Noble, commanding in

MANY SENATORS CALL

A large part of the United States Senate and many members of the House saw and talked with the President today. In addition there were other callers who transacted business with the chief executive.

The President heard a good deal on the ubject of relagic sealing today. Ex-Secretary Foster was an early caller at the White House, and was with the President some time. Later Representative Johnston of North Dakota saw the President, talking with him again on the subject of vetoing the bill passed by Congress a few days ago preventing pelagic sealing by citizens of this country. The President, of course, listened attentively to what Mr. Johnston had to say, but it is not thought that he will veto the bill. On the other hand, he is expected to sign it before the end of the

Attorney General McKenna and ex-Rep resentative Coombs, one of the directors of the Pacific railroads, falked with the President on the subject of the reads. Gov. Atkinson of West Virginia saw the President in regard to an appointment in he navy. Gov. Atkinson said to a Star re perter that nothing but a democratic land-slide would prevent the republicans of his state carrying the legislature in the elections next year. "I do not think there is much doubt that the next legislature will be republican," said the governor. "It will elect a republican as successor to Senator Faulkner. That will place the state fully

in the republican column, and I think it will remain there." Senators McMillan, Gear, Allison, Nelson, Davis, Hoar, Thurston, Baker and Haw-ley were among the senatorial contingent to see the President. Senator Hawley was accompanied by Gen. Rufus Saxton. Representatives McCleary, Taylor of Ohio and Loud of California were among the repre-sentatives of the House.

The Selection of Charles Page Bryan The President has no idea of withdrawing he selection of Charles Page Bryan as minister to China. The nomination has not officially reached the Senate because the President has desired to ascertain the strength and motives of the opposition to Mr. Bryan. His investigation has not led him to believe that the opposition is sufficient to withdraw the nomination. will send it to the Senate when that body reconvenes Mr. Bryan's friends, including those who were influential in securing the appointment, have no idea that the nomination will be defeated. They say that Mr. Bryan has no idea that he will be shifted to some other mission. They do not know any other, mission that he would care for. There is no mission of anything like equal importance with that of China yet to be filled.

### Civil Service Changes.

Representative Brosius of Pennsylvania was with the President some time, talking with him on the subject of the civil service. As a friend of the civil service Mr. Brossius thinks that changes should be made in the way of exceptions. He does not say what the exceptions should be, but is satisfied the President can make changes

in the law which will strengthen it. Senator Thurston talked with the President on Nebraska affairs. The senator did not mention the subject of the civil service today, but he is one of the advocates of re-moving deputy collectors of internal reve-nue from the operation of the law. The it is not legal that these places should remain under the law.

## New Humpshire Appointments.

Senators Gallinger and Chandler requested the President to hold up appointments for New Hampshire until the dele gation from that state has a conference early in January and decides upon the men for the positions to be filled. Senators Mills of Texas and Money of Mississippi were silver democrats who saw

Guardsmen's Commissions Signed. President McKinley today signed the folowing commissions of officers in the National Guard of the District:

Wm. Sisson Hodges, captain Company D. 4th Battalton, infantry; Wm. Halstead Mellach, captain Company A, 5th Battalion, infantry; Duncan Davenport, first lieuten-ant Company A, 5th Battalion; Edward H. Brian, second lieutenant Company A, 5th Battalion; Samuel A, Ward, second lieu-tenant Company A, 1st Separate Battalion; Samuel C. Redman, Second lieutenant Com pany C, 2d Battalion, infantry,

## The District Offices.

Col. Street and Col. Stratton today talk ed with the President about the Police Court fedgeship. They are warm advo cates of the appointment of Mr. O'Donnell, at present a justice of the peace. The President was interested in their statements about Mr. O'Donnell, and gave them considerable encouragement, it is said. It was at least settled by the interview that the President has not definitely determined who shall be the successor to Judg Kimball. Mr. O'Donnell himself cailed later at the White House.

best information obtainable from White House visitors who have talked with the President about the judgeship is to the effect that the President is strongly im-pressed with the advisability of reappoint ing Judge Kimball, but that he ha given anybody the assurance that he will do this. His impression is from the indorsements of Judge Kimball which has been sent to his office and from talks with

friends of the judge.

Investigation fails to confirm the stories that the President has about decided to ap-point an outside man as Police Court judge It is not believed that he has so decided or

that he has ever had such an idea.

In the matter of the marshalship the impression continues strong at the White House that the President has about made up his mind to appoint Mr. Aulick Palmer to the position. Mr. Cheatham, recorder of deeds, was a caller during the day, but had nothing to say as to District offices. Mr. Cheathan say as to District offices. Mr. Cheatham left this afternoon for Wilmington, Del., to deliver an address in that city tonight on the subject of the "Intellectual and Physical Changes of the Past," as applied to his race. He will show that each of these changes has been for the best for the negro race.

## The Lemon Pictures in Place.

negro race.

The Lemon collection of pictures recently presented by the legatees of the late Geo. E. Lemon to the Corcoran Gallery of Art will be exhibited together in the southwest room of the gallery floor. Eight of the works were delivered at the gallery Satur day and were immediately hung. The col-lection is one of rare merit and will undoubtedly prove to become one of the most attractive features of the gallery.

### Grade Crossings Discussed. The Commissioners today held a private

conference with officials of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company in reference to the abolishment of grade crossings and other matters in connection with the pas senger and freight terminals of the road here. The railroad company was represented by Mr. John K. Cowen, one of the receivers of the road and its president; Attorney George E. Hamilton and Chief Engineer W. T. Manning.

After the conference, which lasted for more than an hour, the Commissioners authorized the statement that it was received. thorized the statement that it was m a preliminary exchange of views on both sides. Nothing was finally determined, it was explained, and another conference will be held.

Washington belongs to the New York and Cuba Mail Steamship Company. A. G. Smith, secretary of that company, said to-

"The City of Washington reached her pier last Wednesday morning and immediately began discharging her cargo. Among other things there was a consign-

ment of 103 cases of Mexican coin for a irm in London. Each case represented about \$3,000 Mexican money, equal to about \$1,200 in our money, and weighed about 200 pounds. It was stored in the strong box, between decks, built for that purpose After the rest of the cargo had been discharged, the door of the room was opened and the cases carried to the pier and pile in teirs, to be reshipped to London. On the counting, it was found that there were only 102 cases, and as the bill called for 103, it was apparent that one had been stolen, either before the steamer sailed or since the arrival at this port. "A bundle of canvas, in which about \$100

of the coin was placed, was found in the baggage room, and leads us to believe that the robbery was committed during transit, and that the bundle was left where it was found to throw suspicion in the wrong direction. The only keys to the strong room were in the hands of Capt. Burley and his first mate, and as no violence had been used in entering the place, a skeleton key must have here they must have been used. "Captain Burley is one of our most ex-perienced and trustworthy officers. If the

matter is not cleared up the company will have to stand the loss." ARMY AND NAVY NEWS.

### Arrival of the Detroit at Port au Prince.

The cruiser Detroit arrived at Port au Prince today and Capt. McCalla of the Marblehead, which has been stationed there, notified the Navy Department by cable that he would sail at once for Key West. At that place he will coal and then proceed to Navassa Island to investigate the allegations of inhuman treatment of the American laborers by the agents of the corporation controlling the island. Capt. McCalla would have proceeded directly to Navassa from Port au Prince, but was short of coal, and deemed it imprudent to chance fever by coaling in the West Indies.

### The Cruise of the Helena.

The little gunboat Helena, which left New York a few days ago, will carry the stars and stripes to foreign ports where they have never yet been seen on a warship. The bigger warships in their cruises to distant parts follow the beaten paths and stop only at the principal ports. The Helena being of extremely light draught, however, will be able to enter rivers and bays inaccessible to the larger fighting ma-chines. She was designed especially to visit Interior ports, and when she reaches the Chinese station, where she is bound, she will ascend the rivers of the celestial empire to a greater distance than was possible

After a cruise around the Island of Boo hia the Helena will enter upon one of the most eventful side trips of the voyage-a trip to the famed city of Bagdad. To reach Bagdad it will be necessary for the Helena to enter the Euphrates river at its mouth in the Persian gulf and cruise up to the point of its junction with the River Tigris A voyage of about 500 miles up the Tigris will bring the Helena to Bagdad, which is 700 miles from the sea.

The Helena will cast anchor at Bagdad and stay there long enough to let every one so disposed take a look at her and the flag

# the Tigris again to take up her voyage for China and other eastern ports.

she carries, and then she will steam down

Plans for a Battleship. In anticipation of authority by Congress for the construction of another battleship. Chief Naval Constructor Highborn is engaged in the preparations of plans for a first class vessel of that type. It will be heavier in armament than the battleships of the same class now under construction and will embody all the latest improvements in naval architecture. The plans under preparation call for a ship of not less than 16 knots speed under forced draught, a length of 372 feet by 73 feet beam, and a mean draught of not more than 24 feet on displacement of 11.500 tons. The plans of the engineers call for twin screws and vertical triple expansion engines, with

maximum indicated horse power of not less than 10,000. The heaviest guns in the two fore and aft turrels will be of 13-inch caliber, which the ordnance sharps have settled, is the proper type for the big battleships, while a large secondary battery of rapid fire and machine guns is to be arranged along the broad-sides. The turrets will be of the deflective type, and an interesting feature of the ship is the more general use of electricity, in-cluding the appliance of the power to the turning of the turrets. The secondary batturning of the turrets. The secondary out-tery under the plans will be the heaviest carried by any battleship designed for the new navy. The plans have been drawn thus early in order that bids may be promptly asked should authority be given by Congress. Heretofore the completion of new ships has been delayed six months or more owing to the pecessity of drawing enmore owing to the necessity of drawing en-

# WILL GIVE HIS VIEWS.

Secretary Gage Will Present at Length His Ideas on Civil Service. The Treasury Department has received the Senate resolution inquiring generally as to the operations of the civil service, and what, if any, changes would be advisable. In response to this resolution a long answer will be prepared and is expected to be of great interest, as embodying the views of Secretary Gage on the subject of the civil

Commissioners iWthout Jurisdiction Referring to the case of Miss A. F. Drysdale, an inmate of St. Elizabeth's Insane Asylum, who claims that she was illegally committed to the asylum, the Commissionhave written the Rev. Byron Sunderland that they concur in the opinion of the attorney for the District that it is a matter of which he courts, and not the Commissioners, have jurisdiction.

### Amended and Approved. The Commissioners have returned to Sen-

ater McMillan, chairman of the Senate District committee, Senate bill 1080, authorizing the employment of day labor in the construction of certain municipal buildings and works in the District, which was referred to them for examination and report, recemmending a namendment to the bill. The amendment proposes to add after the word "manner," in the tenth line of the bill, the following: "Said Commissioners are also authorized, in their discretion, to purchase materials in open market or by contract, whichever may appear to them to be the more economical and advanta-geous to the public interests."

### Died in Jail. John Lines, colored, who was sent to

jail by the Police Court the 13th instant for ninety days for carry concealed weapons, died at the prison at 10 o'clock last evening, death resulting from an acute attack of pneumonia complicated with kidney trouble. The man is said to have come here from Pennsylvania, and, so far as Warden Leonard knows, has no friends here. He was about thirty years of age, and unless his body, which was turned over to Undertaker Harvey for burial, is claimed by his friends, it will be buried in potter

It matters little what it is that you want -whether a situation or a servant-a "want" ad. in The Star will reach the person who can fill your need.

GENERAL MARKET REPORTS

Special Dispatch to The Evening Star. NEW YORK, December 20.-Opening prices this morning were fractionally irregular, but the most significant changes were favorable in comparison with Saturday's final figures. London cables reflected a lecreased inquiry and a slight shading off in prices. Professional attempts to force concessions were conspicuous from time to time, but there were no sales from sources likely to command any considerable following. Increased earnings and the prospect for more liberal disbursements to shareholders continue to invite buying of

a conservative nature. There are, however, many rumors of increased dividends on properties which are handleapped in distributing the first fruits of prosperity by reason of unfortunate debts incurred in less fortunate times. While only a few of the rumors are capable of verification, there is sufficient encouragement in the present to inspire confidence in the future.

The coal shares continue to attract a good demand and respond easily to the ouying.

The eRading issues were prominent to day because of rumors of a dividend on the preferred stock. This particular issue has been forced into as attactive a posi-tion as possible ever since the busy mid-

summer season, but at the present is well under its best level. It is thought that early in the new year a better record will be made than at any time during the last twelve months. New lersey Central was forced up an additional 1 per cent on the covering of short con-tracts and a belief that the advance will not be permitted to culminate under par. The higher priced anthracite ceal shares reflected the strength of their more active neighbors.

In the granger issues Burlington was the feature, the price again being advanced to par. Around this figure there seems to be a trifle more stock than the present narrow market is capable of absorbing. Once the narrowness is byercome the principal obsticle to an advance will have The rapid transit decision, with its enormous penalty for failure to perform the contract, is taken to be but an insignificant

renace to existing city roads. Manhattan and Metropolitan Traction were in fair demand throughout the day at prices con-siderably higher than those prevailing at he time of the decision. Sugar was active, profitably for a time, and subsequently in opposition to this result. Two professional cliques are opposed

to each other in determining the value of these shares, but there has not been a sufficient test of strength as yet to decide the merits of either position.
Good judges of the financial situation are disposed to refrain from active participa-ion in the market until after the holidays, the same interests express unusua onfidence in probable results after this pear's trades are all settled. Among the specialities in which important interests are likely to manifest themselves none has a more enviable position than the Panhandle

### FINANCIAL AND COMMERCIAL. The following are the opening, the high-

est and the lowest and the closing prices of the New York stock market today, as re-ported by Corson & Macartney, members New York stock exchange. Correspondents. Messrs. Moore & Schley, No. 80 Broadway.

American Spirits, pra	1834	18%	18	. 18
American Sugar	1883	140%	138%	139
American Sugar, pfd	1123	11237	1123	112
American Tobacco	86%	863	8036	85
American Cetton Oil	2334	2334	23	23
Atchison	231/	131	13	13
Baltimore & Omo				
Bay State Gas	4%	414	5%	4
Canada Southern	56	56	56	56
Canada Pacific	81%	81%	813	81
Chesapeake & Ohio	21%	213	215	21
C., C. C. & St. Louis	3516	35%	85%	35
chicago, B. & Q	992	100	99%	99
Chicagoa Northwestern	1213	121%	12137	121
Chicago Gas	96%	97%	96%	96
C M. & St. Paul	953	95%	951	95
C M. & St. Paul. pfd	142	142	142	142
Chicago, R.I. & Pacific	90%	9136	99%	90
Chicago, St. Paul, M.&O	78%	78%	7834	78
Consolidated Gas	18114	18334	15:	
Del, Lack & W	10134	100%		18:
Delaware & Hudson	113%	11336	2101	***
Den. & Rio Grande, pfd,	46		11336	113
Erie	15	46	46	46
General electric		15%	:5	15
Illinate Contact	83%	33%	33	13
Laba Chara	104%	101%	1041/	104
Lake Shore	*:::		*****	10.00
Louisville & Nashville Metropolitan Traction	57	51%	56%	57
Metropontan Traction	123	1241	123	123
Manhattan Elevated	104%	105%	104	104
Michigan Central				**
Missouri Pacific	3414	3434	24	34
National Lead Co	34%	34%	34%	34
National Lead Co., pfd.,	104	104	104	164
New Jersey Central	95%	97	25%	95
New York Central	107%	107%	1073	107
Northern Pacific	2134	2236	2114	21
Northern Pacific, pfd	601	61	6014	60
Ont. & Western	15%	16%	15%	15
racific Mail	297	29%	29%	29
Phila. & Reading	22%	234	22%	23
Pullman P. C. Co				
Southern Ry., pfa	331	331	3274	33
Phila Traction				
Texas Pacific	1136	:11%	1134	11
Tenn. Coas & Iron	24%	243	24%	24
Union Pacific	2554	263	25%	25
U.S. Leather, pfd.				
Wabash, pfd	1834	1834	17%	17
western Union Tei	89	833	883/	Se
Silver			~/*	-
Ex-div. 14.				
22-div. 17.				

# Washington Stock Exchange.

Sales—regular call—12 o'clock m.—Capital Traction, 15 at 63; 20 at 62½. U. S. Electric Light, 10a100. Lincoln Fire insurance, 100 at 3½. Pneumatic Gun Carriage, 100 at 48 cents. Mergentha; ler Linotype, 10 at 137½; 5 at 137½. Lanston Monotype, 30 at 19½.

District of Columbia Bonds.—20-year fund 5s, 102½ bid, 30-year fund 6s, gold, 111 bid. 3.65s, funding, currency, 114 bid, 116 asked.

Miscellaneous Bonds.—Metropolitan Railroad 5s, 116½ bid. Metropolitan Railroad certificates of indebtedness, A. 125 bid. Hetropolitan Railroad certificates of indebtedness, A. 125 bid. Belt Railroad 5s, 75 asked. Metropolitan Railroad 6s, 90 bid. 100 asked. Colembia Railroad 6s, 121 bid. Washington Gas Company 6s, series A, 112 bid. Washington Gas Company 7cs, series A, 112 bid. Washington Market Company 1mp. 6s, 110 bid. Washington Market Company 1mp. 6s, 110 bid. Washington Market Company etc. 6s, 110 bid. Washington Market Company etc. 6s, 110 bid. National Bank Stocks.—Bank of Washington, 275 bid, 300 asked. Metropolitan, 305 bid. 307 asked. Central, 260 bid. Farmers and Mechanics', 180 bid. Sacond, 140 bid. Citizens', 135 bid. Columbia, 130 bid. Capital, 120 bid. West End, 103½ bid. 113 asked.

Safe Deposit and Trust, 120 asked. Metropolitan, 365 bid. Safe Deposit and Trust, 127 asked. American Security and Trust, 127 asked. American Security and Trust, 127 asked. American Security and Trust, 147 bid. Washington Safe Deposit and Trust, 127 asked. American Security and Trust, 147 bid. Washington Safe Deposit and Trust, 148 bid. Columbia, 63 bid. Railroad Stocks.—Capital Traction, 62 bid. 62½ asked. Metropolitan, 119 bid. Columbia, 63 bid. Railroad Stocks.—Capital Traction, 62 bid, 624 asked. Metropolitan, 119 bid. Columbia, 63 bid 68 asked.

asked, Metropolitan, 119 bid. Columbia, 63 bid.
68 asked.
Gas and Electric Light Stocks.—Washington Gas.
46½ bid, 47 asked. Georgetown Gas. 43 bid. 46
asked. U. S. Electric Light, x99½ bid. 101 asked.
Insurance Stocks.—Fir.m.n.s. 30 bid. Frankiln.
38 bid. Metropolitan, 65 bid. Corcoran, 56 bid.
Potomac. 64 bid. Arliagton, 133 bid. 147 asked.
German-American, 185 bid. National Union, 10
bid, 12 asked. Columbia, 12 bid. Riggs, 7% bid.
8½ asked. People's. 5½ bid. 6 asked. Lincoln,
9½ bid, 9¾ asked. Commercial, 4½ asked. Lincoln,
9½ bid, 9¾ asked. Commercial, 4½ asked.
Title Insurance Stocks.—Real Estate Title, x85
bid, 35 asked. Columbia Title, x¾ bid, 5½ asked.
Washington Title, 2½ bid. District Title, 3 bid.
Telephone Stocks.—Pennsylvania. 40 bid, 48
asked. Chesapeake and Potomac, 65 bid. 70 asked.
American Graphophone, 9% bid. 10 asked. American Graphophone, preferred, 10 bid. Pneumatic
Gun Carriage, 46 bid, 48 asked.
Miscellancous Stocks.—Mergenthaler Linotype, 136 bid, 137½ asked. Lanston Monotype, 194; bid, 20¼ asked. Washington Market, 10 bid.
Great Falis Ice, 107 bid, 112 asked. Norfolk and
Washington Steamboat, 100 asked. Lincoln Hall,
90 asked.
EEx div.

Baltimore Markets

BALTIMORE December 2).—Flour quiet west-ern super, \$2.70a\$3.10; do. extra, \$3.3a\$4.10; do. family, \$4.40a\$4.65; winter wheat parent, \$4.85a \$5.10; spring do., \$5.00a\$5.20; spring wheat straight, \$4.80a\$4.95—receipts, 13.464 barrels; ex-

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

STRONG BOX WAS ROBBED

Paokage of Coin Taken From Steamer City
of Washington.

Pelagic Spaling Bill.

The President Urged to Veto the
Pelagic Spaling Bill.

The Property of Washington Steamer City
of Washington.

The Must Have Had a Skeleton Key
or Have Stolen the
Captain's.

COAL SHARES CENTER OF INTEREST

Revoked.

No Probability That It Will Be
Revoked.

No Probability That It Will Be
Revoked.

STRONG BOX WAS ROBBED

FINANCE AND TRADE

Finance And month, 2684-2688; January, 2684 bushels; est, 2684 bushels; exports, none; stock, 1245-566 bushels; est, 2684 bushels; exports, none; stock, 1245-566 bushels; est, 2684 bushels; est, 2

Government Bonds Quotations reported by Corson & Macart-

ney, bankers. 2 per cents, registered.
4 per cents, coupon of 1907.
4 per cents, registered of 1907.
4 per cents, registered of 1907.
5 per cents, coupon of 1925.
6 per cents, coupon of 1945.
7 per cents, registered of 1904.
7 currency 6 per cents of 1904.
7 Currency 6 per cents of 1809.

Grain, Provisions and Cotton Markets Furnished by W. B. Hibbs & Co., bankers and brokers, 1427 F st., members New York stock exchange, correspondents Messa Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co., New York. | Cornell | Corn

### Month. Open. Janu ry 5.71 March 5.79 M y 5.40 June 5.93 High. 5.73 5.81 5.91 5.94 IN HOTEL CORRIDORS

Representative and Mrs. Northway have been entertaining their fellow-townsman. Rollin A. Norton of Jefferson, Ohio, at the Riggs. Mr. Norton is a prominent citizen of Ashtabula county, and enjoys more than a local reputation as a raconteur. The First National Bank of Jefferson, of which he is vice president, adjoins the old law office of the late Benjamin F. Wade, for many years senator from Ohio. Jefferson was also the home of the old anti-slavery war horse, Joshua R. Giddings, who for twenty years represented the nineteenth Ohio district in Congress.

"Both Giddings and Ben Wade are buried n the village cemetery of Jefferson," Mr. Norton told a Star reporter yesterday.
"Their memory is fondly cherished by the people of our old district, too. Giddings' old law office is also standing. It is a one-story wooden building facing the street. old law office is also standing. It is a one-story wooden building facing the street, and in one corner of the front yard of his old home. He built it himself more than eighty years ago. As students, many young men who afterward became distin-guished in the profession obtained the first rullments of the law in this building with udiments of the law in this building, with rudiments of the law in this building, with Giddings as their preceptor. The interior of the office is just as Giddings left it, even to the paper on the wall. All his law books are in the library and the furniture is the same as used by him. His son, J. A. Giddings, lives in the old homestead, and he spends many pleasant hours with friends and visitors in this rude frame office.

Wade's office is a one-story wooden "Wade's office is a one-story wooden building, but was built many years later. Wade always took great interest in his village home, and when not engaged in his duties at Washington he could usually be seen working about his yard. Every summer until his death he was visited by Senator Zach Chandler of Michigan. They were bosom friends and were alike in a great many ways. All day long they would sit together on the wide veranda of the village tavern and intersperse the discussion of affairs of government by telling stories, much to the edification of a little coterie of town folk who always gathered coterie of town folk who always gathered

We have many reasons for feeling proud "We have many reasons for feeling proud of our town. It was in Jefferson that 'Villiam Dean Howells set type when a boy, and the old paper is still run by his brother. The father of the Howells succeeded Giddings as consul at Hamilton, Canada. He died a few years are."

died a few years ago."

The thousands who read W. D. Howells' books do not know that the type for them is set in Jefferson. However, this is so. The proofs are sent to him for revisal in New York and the pages are sent to the nearest electrotyper. In this way Howells owns his own plates.

"The Tennessee centennial exposition was a great success despite the disadvantages and obstacles that were contended against," said Colonel J. W. Baker of Nashville to a Star reporter at the Normandie today. "The government, in the first place, refused to appropriate any money, and then we finally got only \$130,000. The same was true of the state of Tennessee. The legislature practically ignored the project until it found that the people of Nashville were in earnest and proposed carrying it to completion regardless of outside financial aid. "If it had not been for the yellow fever scare in the south, there would have an attendance of at least more than 4,000,-000, and there would have been enough money left in the treasury to purchase the grounds for a permanent park for our city. Our people are considering the advisability of acquiring the grounds anyway, and it is not improbable that this will be accompolished partly by private contributions. If this is done the Parthenon and the history building, and possibly the auditorium, will be left standing. The grounds, which com-prise 240 acres, are beautifully laid out, as every one can attest who has visited them. They are near the Vanderbilt Uni-

violations of rules. There was not a single fight or row of any kind. am more than ever proud of Nashville. Why, when the project of an exposition was first talked of our town 'was n the dumps.' Nashville had suffered more than any other city in the country. At one time all the banks were shut down, and was impossible to get more than \$100 at any single time. The rellow fever didn't come within 400 miles of Nashville, but it prevented hundreds of thousands of northerners from attending the exposition. Take Illinois and Chicago day. The governor published that he wouldn't come, and, if it had not been for Secretary Gage, Senator Mason and Judge Tuthill, who took the matter up, there would hardly have been any representation from that state. As it was, several thousand that state. As it was, several thousand came, and we gave them a good time "Bryan and the governor of Nebraska also wired that they couldn't come because of the yellow fever on the day set anart to them, and we had to set a certificate from the state board of health and the city authorities assuring them that Nashwas free of the disease before they would venture to come. You see what we had to contend against. But the exposition was a success, just the same."

them. They are near the Vanderbilt University grounds, which cover seventy acres and possess all the attributes of a park. It speaks well for our people that out of the 2,000,000 who attended the exposition there were only 400 arrests, and these were for trivial offenses, such as picking flowers and violations of rules. There was not a single

"Forty-one years is a long time to stay by one hotel, but I have been coming to Washington regularly since 1856, with the exception of the four years that I served in the army, and I have yet to sleep in any other place," said Capt. E. F. Malin, a veteran traveling man, at the National today. "Washington was not much of a place then. Pennsylvania avenue was unpaved, and at some times of the year was almost impassable. One of my early trips to Washington was just following the poisoning of so many guests at the National, and I well remember the excitement there was about it." Capt. Malin is recovering from a severe

in which seven people were killed and a number injured. He is salesman for a large firm that manufactures agricultural implements, and Maryland and the Vir-ginias are his principal territory.

shock to his nervous system, received in

the wreck on the Chesapeake and Ohio

railroad at Charlottesville, Va., last month,

ginias are his principal territory.

"Times are exceedingly good in our business, and collections were never better," he said to a Star reporter during a discussion of the business situation. "For several years the farmers were compelled to curtail in everything. Their stock, at a necessity, got low. Now they are replenishing, and they have the money with which to do it."